4. Action is in progress for updating facilities in Ordnance factories in keeping with technological developments in these areas as well as in the manufacture of arms and ammunition.

Welfare activities by Defence Forces

1886. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of various welfare activities undertaken by the defence forces alongwith the achievements made during the last three years;

(b) whether some welfare activities including protection from erosion reconstruction of roads and health aid were undertaken in Majuli island of Assam; and

(c) if so, the specific programmes proposed for future implementation based on the experience and urgency of protecting the island from erosion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) to (c) As a part of its overall counter insurgency campaign, the Army undertakes only small scale civic action projects from time to time, in insurgency affected areas of the North-East Region, which have been subjected to depredatory activities by the terrorists and have been denied developmental activities. Army has accordingly undertaken developmental works in the States of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. During the years 1996-99, the Army undertook a major project code-named 'Operation Good Samaritan' in the States of Nagaland and Manipur. The details of work carried out are as under:-

(i)	Building constructed / repaired	698 Nos.
(ii)	Toilet Blocks constructed	161 Nos.
(iii)	Culverts constructed / repaired	128 Nos.
(iv)	Water supplied to	308 locations
(v)	Water Points established	252 Nos.

(vi)	Play grounds constructed	198 Nos.
(vii)	Construction of roads/tracks	502 Kms.
(viii)	Patients treated	1.75 lakhs approximately
(ix)	Live stock treated	16374 Nos.

In addition, the army also undertook some similar small projects, during the year 1999-2000 which are continuing in the current year also.

The Army undertook limited welfare/developmental projects in the Majuli Islands during the period 1999-2000 which included construction and repair of roads/tracks/playground and also organised a free medical camp on 10th and 11th February, 2000.

Recruitment of Tribals from North-Eastern States

1887. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota of tribals in the vancancies in Armed Forces for the North-Eastern States;

(b) the number of tribals recruited during the last three years from each one of eight North-Eastern States including Sikkim; and

(c) what concrete steps Government are taking to step up the recruitment of tribals from North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No fixed vacancies are allotted for tribals for the North-Eastern States.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) The following steps are being taken to step up recruitment of tribals from the North-Eastern States:—